White tailed kite preying on rodent.

Hollywood mountain Lion “P-22” suffering from mange associated with rodenticides (2014).

Great horned owl disposed of in dumpster after death associated with rodenticides (2015).

http://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/
Wildlife are widely poisoned by rodenticides

Approximately 75% of wildlife tested had been exposed to one or more rodenticides. Rodenticides lead to death, illness, or chronic diseases, such as mange, for at least 37 different wildlife species in California. Most poisoned wildlife is not tested because they are not found or tested at a veterinary facility.

### Table 2. Number (and percent) of the rodenticides among all animals (n=492) and among the positive animals (n=368)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides</th>
<th>First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samples</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>359 (72.9%)</td>
<td>65 (13.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positives</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>359 (97.6%)</td>
<td>65 (17.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>124 (63.94%)</td>
<td>31 (5.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammals</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>215 (72.2%)</td>
<td>141 (47.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>339 (68.9%)</td>
<td>183 (37.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positives</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>339 (92.1%)</td>
<td>183 (49.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Animals may be positive for more than one rodenticide.

1 California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Memorandum: Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide Assessment (White Paper) (June 27, 2013) at p. 8.

2 Id. at tables 3 and 4.
Wildlife continue to be widely poisoned by rodenticides despite increased regulations on second generation anticoagulant rodenticides by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the EPA:

- Recent necropsy data from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife show continued rodenticide poisonings and even *increasing* rodenticide exposure.
- Predators such as hawks, owls, eagles, bobcats, mountain lions, and foxes feed on rodents poisoned by poison bait boxes.
- Predators have learned to wait for poisoned and lethargic rodents leaving poison bait boxes.
- Poisons often lead to sloppy sanitation—attracting more rodents, and many poison bait boxes are broken.
Children and pets are poisoned by rodenticides

In 2014, over 11,300 people were poisoned by rodenticides in the United States, including over 8,800 people that were poisoned by anticoagulant rodenticides.3

- The majority of poisonings in 2014 were for children under 6 years:
  - Over 8500 children under 6 were poisoned with rodenticides,
  - Over 8300 children under 6 were poisoned with anticoagulant rodenticides,
  - 6 children under 6 died from rodenticides, including 3 from anticoagulant rodenticides.4

- In the U.S. more than 100 pets needlessly die each year due to rodenticide exposure.5 In 2014, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center handled more than 7,500 calls about rodenticide poisonings.6

---


4 Ibid.


AB 2596 Allows Rodenticides In Limited Situations

AB 2596 allows for rodenticides to protect agriculture from rodents because it specifically exempts “agricultural activities” from a rodenticide ban.7

AB 2596 allows for rodenticides to protect public health and the environment because it does not “preempt or supersede” Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act that allows for emergency exemptions to use rodenticides to protect, public health, significant economic loss, or the environment.8

Los Angeles Times

Editorial

Rat poison is killing more than rats

P-34 waking up after being collared by National Park Service researchers in December of 2014. (National Park Service)

The Times Editorial Board
November 12, 2015

The death of a 2-year-old mountain lion from rat poison was unusual and unsettling enough to capture attention and sink hearts, especially because P-34 had attracted more than her share of

7 "Agricultural activities" (under Cal. Food and Ag Code § 564) means those activities that generate products. Products (under Cal. Food and Ag. Code § 54004) includes any horticultural, viticultural, aquacultural, forestry, dairy, livestock, poultry, bee, or farm product.
local fame last year by lounging under a Newbury Park mobile home. But, in fact, wildlife of all sorts die from rodenticides that were never intended for them, and most of the state's mountain lions have those poisons in their systems.

Of most concern is so-called second-generation rat poison, which is more toxic than previous versions and, when eaten by a rodent, stays in its body at high levels. Birds of prey, bobcats and other animals that eat rodent carcasses — or live rodents, which are often woozy from the poison and thus easier to catch — then build up the poison in their bodies. Thus it works its way up the food chain.

“California needs to examine more aggressive restrictions on pesticide use.”

According to a 2013 article in Audubon magazine, more than three-fourths of California's mountain lions have these poisons in their systems, as do more than 90% of the owls, hawks and other birds of prey in San Diego County. The poison also threatens bobcats, foxes and pet dogs and cats. The problem is widespread because rodents don't stay tidily on the property where they ate the poison; they wander into wilderness areas and other backyards before they die. In some cases, the rodenticides leave affected animals disoriented and with weakened immune systems. They are more likely to be hit by cars, to be unable to find food or seek shelter, or to be afflicted with mange.

Last year, California banned the sale of second-generation rodenticide to the public, though farms and licensed exterminators may still use them, and the state also forbade their use in state parks. Yet the deaths continue. In late 2014, three bobcats were found dead at UC Santa Cruz, and Griffith Park's well-known mountain lion, P-22, developed a case of mange that biologists believed was the result of rodenticide. In September, the poisoned body of a gray fox was found in the Santa Monica Mountains.

California has been ahead of the rest of the country in restricting the use of rat poisons, but, according to state wildlife officials, the new rules aren't working. The problem appears to be the too-lavish use of second-generation products by exterminators with too little attempt to fix the cause of rat infestation. For example, state officials said, it is common to see overflowing trash bins surrounded by rat-bait stations. As long as the trash remains, so will the rats.

California must consider more aggressive restrictions on pesticide use. It could require exterminators to use nontoxic approaches — cleaning things up, sealing openings in buildings and replacing rat-attracting plants — and to rely on second-generation rat poison only when absolutely necessary.

A version of this article appeared in print on November 12, 2015, in the Opinion section of the Los Angeles Times with the headline "Rat poison kills more than rats" http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-poisoned-puma-20151112-story.html